IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In the Application of: | |
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| | Examiner: Naishadh N. Desai |
| Tsugio Yokoo, et al. | |
| | Confirmation No.: 4471 |
| on: SHAFT AND MOLDING APPARATUS) |) |
| THEREOF |) |
| |) Art Unit: 2834 |
| U.S. Serial No.: 10/546,622 |) |
| Int'l Appln. No.: PCT/JP2004/002363 | |
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Hartford, Connecticut, February 26, 2009

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

The following Amendments and Remarks are submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated November 26, 2008, having a shortened period of response set to expire February 26, 2009.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS begin on page 2; and **REMARKS** begin on page 4.